



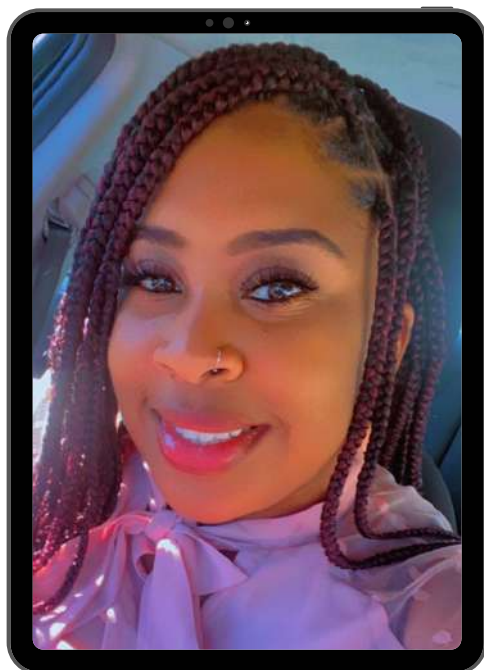
GARY ALUMNI PATHWAY TO STUDENTS  
(219) 881-5445  
900 W. Gerry St., Rm C142  
Gary, IN 46406  
info@gapsgary.org

# NEWS<sup>2023</sup> LETTER

June



## Meet The Staff



**Brionna Murphy**  
Administrative Assistant

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STEM

**GAPS DESIGN CHALLENGE??**

Keep reading to find uncover the  
assignment and results.

Greetings, Students, families, and community members. I am **Brionna Murphy, Administrative Assistant of GAPS**. I was born and raised right here in Gary, Indiana. I am a loving mother of two handsome boys, Xavier and Nicholas. Being a boy-mom keeps me busy so in my spare time, I enjoy listening to music, cooking, and spending time with loved ones.

This June, I was welcomed with open arms by GAPS. I graduated from West Side High School many years ago. I now have the pleasure of walking the same halls, but with a different purpose. I set out to assist in every way possible to ensure students and parents are set up for success. I believe that keeping a smile on your face keeps you from crying. Life is filled with ups, downs, smiles, and frowns, but every day is another chance to get things right.



# BOSS PARTNERS



Special thanks to our 2022-2023 school year B.O.S.S. workshop facilitators! We appreciate your support and dedication to the students of Gary.

- **Armon Boulware: Entrepreneurship Ventures**
- **Ludeen Kilgore: Gary International Black Film Festival**
- **Joseph Guthrie: Pharmaceutical Sales**
- **Jerome Watkins: Law Camp**
- **Jose Serrano: Intro to EMS/Fire Service/CPR Cert**
- **Dezimon Alicea: A Happy Presentation**
- **Dana Wesolek-Earth Day: Student Summit**
- **Erik Roberts: Rap & Real Estate**
- **GAPS Staff: Effective Communication, Building Relationships & Conflict Resolution in the Workplace, Ikigai Purpose, & JA Inspire Virtual-Career Exploration**



Students were especially pleased by the connections they made in the following workshops:

- The GAPS Workshops
- Intro to EMS/Fire Service workshop series of which they received a CPR certification,
- "A Happy Presentation" series, and
- "Rap & Real Estate" series.





## End-of-SY 22-23 Remarks from Dr. Coni Taslim, GAPS Executive Director

As the 2022-2023 school year comes to an end, I couldn't be more proud of the support the GAPS team and its partners provided for the students, staff, and families of the Gary Community School Corporation!

Thank you to the GAPS Board, GAPS Team, GCSC administration, staff, students, and families and the Gary community for your service and commitment to the mission of GAPS by connecting alumni, businesses, and community stakeholders with students to promote successful academic, career, and life outcomes.

We began the school year with a successful 2-day Career Fair in which we partnered with close to 40 vendors to immerse the West Leadership Academy 9th-12th grade students with college and career opportunities in and around the Gary community. We quickly moved into our *B.O.S.S.* programming for our high school students who participated in weekly workshops facilitated by over 10 partners!

Simultaneously, we launched our *L.I.T.* after-school program for close to 325 of our elementary and middle school students. We provided 21st Century Scholar support and academic support through our Level-Up Tutoring program along with the implementation of an intervention program we will expand next school year.

GAPS is currently providing summer programming for our elementary and high schools with the help of 5 local interns! I am extremely excited for the impact we will continue to make in the upcoming 2023-2024 school year and look forward to the community's enduring partnership.





## *Student Spotlight*

### **GAPS STEM Academy Students Design Challenge.....**

***Success Criteria: Build the tallest free-standing tower!***

Constraints: You only have 10 minutes to plan and then build your design using only the materials provided.

1 box toothpicks

1 container play dough

1 piece card stock (base optional)

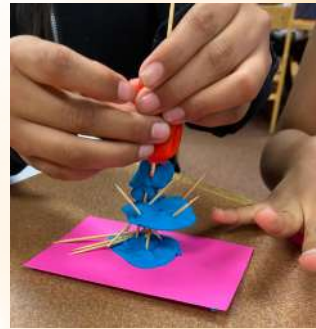




# *Student Spotlight*

## RESULTS ARE IN!

### GAPS STEM Academy Students Design Challenge



 Find us on Facebook

 Instagram



# CALL *for* VOLUNTEERS



GAPS creates effective and enduring partnerships and relationships based on common goals with school administrators, teachers, alumni, students, parents, businesses, and community resources with GCSC and city, state, and national agencies.

We maintain our operations by integrating into the Gary Community School Corporation and the Gary community while developing sustainable funding mechanisms. We appreciate your service and support in advance!

In order to meet the GAPS mission, we need your support in order to expand our programming, partnerships, and permanence outreach. We develop programming and promote programs that deliver multiple structured pathways to success for students that connect alumni collectively and individually with students and administration to prepare them for academic, career, and personal success.

Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of young people in your community? Join our GAPS program and share your skills, knowledge, and abilities with high school students. As a volunteer, you'll inspire and guide the next generation, helping them develop the skills and confidence to succeed.

## TWO WAYS TO HELP GAPS SUCCEED:

We are seeking volunteers for our **2023-2024 fall Career Fair** at West Side Leadership Academy. We are extremely excited to partner with you in providing Gary students with skills, resources, and opportunities! Please complete the [SY 23-24 WSLA Career Fair Volunteer Interest Form](#) to help us prepare for an amazing event in the upcoming school year.

We are also seeking volunteers for our **2023-2024 school year workshops**. Interested in facilitating a workshop for our students in the upcoming school year? If so, please complete our [GAPS Student Workshop Facilitator Request](#) form. Additional details will be shared upon your completion of the form.





## GAPS Calendar Of Events

DATE	CATEGORY	TOPIC
July 3, 5 to July 7, 2023 July 10 to July 14, 2023 July 17 to July 21, 2023 July 24 to July 28, 2023	SAT	SAT Prep Academy at WSLA 9-2

**GAPS**  
SAT Prep Academy  
Summer-School Program  
Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Session 1: June 5th-20th  
Session 2: July 3rd-28th

An academic support program free for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students beginning June 5, 2023!

**NEW**

Students participating in the program will receive:

- a tailored practice plan based on a diagnosis of their ASB or PERS/MASOTB scores.

Contact the WSLA Main Office at (219) 413-9870 to register ASAP!

## News Bytes



[NEW STUDY SUGGESTS THAT JUST FIVE PERCENT OF TEACHERS DOUBLE THE RACIAL DISCIPLINE GAP](#)

[JUNE 16, 2023 STUDIES ON STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SHOW GAPS IN FUNDING](#)

[INDIANA'S "SCHOOL CHOICE" VOUCHER PROGRAM GREW 20% LAST YEAR – WITH MORE GROWTH COMING](#)

[IUN VICE CHANCELLOR SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM](#)

[INDIANA HIGH SCHOOLERS RAISE AP SCORES IN 2022 WITH ROOM FOR GROWTH](#)

GAPS is a non-profit organization that requires financial contributions in order to sustain its operations. Please consider making a donation of any amount to our organization. In order to ensure we can continue to fulfill the vision of GAPS of assisting students with success in a rapidly changing world by discovering and pursuing their educational and career aspirations. We appreciate your willingness to contribute to the GAPS organization. Please click on our [GAPS Donation](#) link to support!

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